

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00348 161752Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-06 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /067 W
-----023432 162105Z /64

R 161631Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5737
INFO EC COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 0348

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, PINT, DA
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS OF DANISH EC PRESIDENCY

1. IN PARLIAMENT JANUARY 12, FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN RESPONDED TO AN INQUIRY ABOUT DANISH EC MEMBERSHIP WITH A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF DENMARK'S APPROACH TO THE EC CHAIRMANSHIP. WHILE MUCH OF WHAT ANDERSEN SAID IS A REITERATION OF THEMES EXPRESSED EARLIER BY DANISH OFFICIALS, HIS SPEECH NEVERTHELESS PROVIDED A NEAT SUMMARY OF THE DANISH POLICIES LIKELY TO GUIDE THE DANISH PRESIDENCY IN THE COMING SIX MONTHS.

2. ANDERSEN STRESSED WHAT HE CONSIDERS THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF RECENT EC DEVELOPMENTS, EMPHASIZING THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN PARTICULAR:

A. THAT DESPITE THE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT (ECONOMIC) SITUATION, THE EC HAS NOT YIELDED TO THE TEMPTATION TO INTRODUCE PROTECTIONIST TRADE MEASURES.

B. THAT THE EC'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US WILL PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN ACHIEVING SOLUTIONS TO MAJOR PROBLEMS; AND THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAST YEAR HAS SEEN SIGNIFICANTLY CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE US IN TREATY MATTERS AND IN THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ROTATING PRESIDENCY AND THE US.

C. THAT THE EC HAS SHOWN "OPENNESS" IN ITS POSITIVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE SPANISH, PORTUGUESE AND GREEK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, AND THAT OPENNESS HAS ALSO BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN NEGOTIATIONS

OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH EFTA COUNTRIES AND IN THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

D. THAT THERE HAS BEEN A STRONG DEVELOPMENT IN POLITICAL COOPERATION AMONG THE NINE AND THAT THE DANES ARE INTERESTED IN INCREASING THE OCCASIONS WHEN THE NINE SPEAK ONE VOICE.

E. THAT PROGRESS WILL DEMAND INCREASINGLY GREATER COORDINATION OF EACH COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC POLICIES.

F. THAT MAINTENANCE OF THE "SNAKE" CONSTITUTES THE BASIS FOR COOPERATION IN MONETARY POLICY AND HAS ENSURED STABLE CURRENCY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNERS; THIS HAS HAD A DEMONSTRABLY BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

3. THE FONMIN POINTED TO UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EC COUNTRIES AS THE MAJOR "INTERNAL" PROBLEM TO BE DEALT WITH DURING THE DANISH CHAIRMANSHIP PERIOD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COPENH00348
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780023-0720
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780161/aaaabyxs.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b19a63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3771484
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS OF DANISH EC PRESIDENCY
TAGS: PINT, DA, EEC
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b19a63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014